(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if answer to Part (a) be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Under the IID Scheme, the State Government/UT concerned is required to first select suitable site in the rural/backward area, firm up project proposal and get the project proposal appraised by SIDBI. The recommendations of the SIDBI on the proposal are then considered by the Government for sanction.

No proposal from the Government of Bihar for setting up IID Centre in Bihar has so far been received inspite of bringing the Scheme to the notice of all State Governments/UTs in the country.

**Capital Investment in NER**

3089. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA : Will the Minister of COMMECRE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the effective measures being taken by Government to encourage capital investment in the NER, particularly in the State of Assam; and

(b) the details of capital investment made by multinational companies in NER during the last three years and till-date; sector-wise and district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) Government has announced a new industrial policy for the North-Eastern Region on 24th December, 1997 to encourage capital investment and thereby promote industrialisation of the region. The component of the policy are :

1. The Transport Subsidy Scheme has been extended up to March 2007 for the NE Region.

2. Under the Growth Centre Scheme, central assistance up to Rs. 15 crore is provided to each growth centre set up in the North-East. So far 8 growth centres have been approved for the N.E., 2 specifically for Assam being Chariduar and Matia.

3. Funding pattern for Integrated Infrastructure Development Centres (IIDCs) changed from 2:3 between Government of India and SIDBI to 4:1 now, specially for the N.E. region. The Government of India funds is in nature of grant. In Assam one IIDC has been approved-Village-Dalgon, Distt: Darrang.

4. Industrial Units set up in the growth centres, IIDC and other specified areas in the North Eastern Region would be given capital investment subsidy at the rate of 15% of their investment in plant and machinery subject to a ceiling of Rs. 30 lakhs. This facility is also extended to new industrial units or their substantial expansion in certain specified industries located outside these growth centres and other identified locations.

5. Growth centres and IIDCs have been declared tax free zones for the income-tax and excise duty purposes for a period of 10 years. Certain High growth potential industries have also been given the tax-free status irrespective of their location in the N.E. Region.

6. An interest subsidy of 3% on working capital loans would be provided for a period of 10 years to new industrial units or their substantial expansion in the growth centres or IIDCs and other identified location in the North Eastern Regions as well as to the New Industrial units or their substantial expansion in certain high growth potential units set up any where in the N.E.Region.

7. Comprehensive Insurance Scheme for industrial units has been notified, for a 10 years period.

8. The Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana has been liberalised for the N.E. Region. The upper age limit has been raised to 40 years for the beneficiaries, whereas it is 35 years for the rest of the country. Family income limit has also been raised to Rs. 40,000 for the N.E. States *vis-a-vis* Rs. 24,000 for the rest of the country. Subsidy @ of 15% of the project cost subject to a ceiling of Rs. 15,000 for North-Eastern States, *vis-a-vis* Rs. 7500 for rest of the country.

Necessary notifications for various measures listed above, have been issued. These are expected to give fillip to the industrial development of the North-Eastern Region.

(b) State-wise details of foreign direct investment approved during the last three years is enclosed.

(Rs. in Crores)

| State | Amount of Foreign Direct Investment approved | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 |
| Manipur | 3.19 | — | — |
| Meghalaya | 6.00 | 44.46 | — |
| Nagaland | 3.68 | — | — |

**Payment of Dues to Retired Employees of TTCI Owned Tea Gardens**

3090. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 11 and Unstarred Question 1136 given in the Rajya Sabha on 29th November and 13th December, 1999 respectively and state:

(a) what steps are proposed for payment of dues in respect of PF, Gratuity, T.A., Salaries, medical claims and pension to retired employees of TTCI owned Tea Gardens with special reference to Pathini Tea Estate in Barak Valley of Southern Assam;

(b) what steps are being taken for revival of Pathini Tea Estates in Barak Valley; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (TTCI) is a wholly owned subsidiary of STC, which manages the administration of five tea gardens in the States of West Bengal and Assam including Pathini Tea Estate. The company is facing an acute financial crunch being a loss making company and has been unable to discharge its obligations. The total liability of the Company is estimated around Rs. 36 crores as on 31-1-1997.

TTCI management has filed a petition in Calcutta High Court for liquidation of the company. The case is pending in the Court. The aspect in regard to payment of dues of PF, Gratuity etc, will be taken into consideration based on the judgement of Calcutta High Court in the liquidation case. TTCI